TO: Communications Board

FROM: WMUA

RE: Broadcast Coverage of Open Meeting, February 19th

On Thursday, February 15, 1968, WMUA broadcast live coverage of the demonstration in the Student Union. Providing an on-the-scene account of the proceedings, the program was useful not only to students, but to the administration and faculty as well. Unfortunately, the speeches included some obscenities which were broadcast, and which, in part, we believe, prompted the administration to forbid live broadcast of the open meeting planned for Monday, February 19th. We were not informed until late Friday afternoon (the 16th) of the decision, even though it had been reached that morning.

Then, on Monday morning, in an attempt to obtain a reversal of the decision, we contacted Dean Noffsinger and Dean Field. We were referred to the Secretary of the University, Mr. McCartney. We assured him that we intended to keep questionable material off the air by means of a tape delay system, and he replied that he would consider the request. Later, despite a recommendation for live broadcast from one of our advisors, Mr. Albert Hulsen, of the Speech Department and WFCR, Mr. McCartney repeated that permission would not be granted, adding that it would not be proper for the University to air its private problems in public.

After an unsuccessful attempt to contact President Lederle, we received a succession of three phone calls: the first, from the President's office, was to inform us that most of the administrative officers opposed the live broadcast; the second from Dr. Raymond Wyman of the Audio-Visual Center, and an advisor to WMUA, was a recommendation that we agree not to broadcast live on the basis of a statement by President Lederle which, according to Dr. Wyman, held that there would be a better atmosphere for dialogue if speakers did not have to worry about their remarks being broadcast; the third, from Mr. William Bates, also of the Audio-Visual Center, was to inform us that only A.-V.'s microphones would be permitted on the floor of the Cage.

With this, we once again called several University officials, including Secretary McCartney, this time seeking permission to place a commentator in the balcony to provide coverage without direct access to the floor. But, Mr. McCartney again informed us that no live microphones would be allowed in the Cage. He did, however, grant us permission to set up our equipment in a room outside the gym, which we accepted as our only alternative at the time.

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With this in mind, we feel that it is necessary to make the following statement:

We believe that any prohibiting of the broadcast of news-worthy, informational or otherwise valuable program material is not justifiable except in special cases. We do not feel that a public meeting

action was a violation of the intellectual atmosphere of the University community.

We request, therefore, that, in the future, all public meetings affecting the welfare of the University community be open for live broadcast.